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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT All-Union Academy of Agriculture/
Related Agricultural Institutions

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1. In general, the reorganization of the agricultural, educational and research system within the USSR was gradual and spotty prior to 1930. During 1929, 1930, and 1931, there was an extensive reorganization, followed by another in 1938. By 1934, the general system had been formalized and established.
2. The Vesoiuznaia Selsko Khoziaistvenaia Nauk Akademia, V I Lenin (Vashnil) /All-Union Academy of Agriculture, name of Lenin/ had its headquarters in Moscow. All matters pertaining to agricultural education were determined at this headquarters. The Academy was subordinate only to the Council of Soviet Ministers. At the working level, there was a close connection with the Ministry of Agriculture, but this was an informal rather than a formal interdependence. From 1934 to date [redacted], Trofim Denosivich Lysenko has been President of the Academy.
3. The All-Union Academy of Agriculture was [1944] divided into the following divisions:
 - a. Seed Culture (grain) - wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, corn, etc.
 - b. Oil Culture - sunflower, mustard, flax, and many others.
 - c. Feed for Domestic Animals - all types grasses, grain (alfalfa). Inadequate feed for domestic animals has been a big problem in the USSR, and the whole matter of feed production has never been well organized. The extensive mechanization and farm program achievements of recent years have not eliminated this problem. There is still [redacted] not enough food for humans produced in the USSR, much less animal fodder.

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d. Technical Plants - all plants which could be used for industrial goods or purposes: drugs, aromatic plants, plants for tanning and dyes, etc. (except rubber, although by now [] rubber is probably included).

e. Sub-Tropical Plants - avocado, bamboo, tea, citrus, etc.

f. Engineering - erosion, irrigation, soil conditioning.

g. Northern Agriculture (Polar Region, Siberia) - development of plants for greenhouse cultivation and open planting after the war. (fn) Ehenveld was Director of this unit, and an acknowledged expert in polar agriculture.

h. Animal Husbandry - feeding, breeding, artificial insemination.

i. Veterinary

j. Mechanization

k. Fruits and Vegetables

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3. It must be emphasized that Soviet institutional and organizational systems are constantly changing.

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4. Under the All-Union Academy of Agriculture were also two commissions, approximately equal to divisions but with a larger percentage of local employees and, in general, more temporary than the divisions. The technical personnel of the latter were normally members of the USSR Academy of Sciences, whereas this was not the case with the commissions.

a. Plant Research Commission - testing the grade of plants and determining where they should be planted.

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b. []

There were several hundred permanent scientists attached to these commissions, and each of their sections had a constant flow of personnel to and from various regions of the USSR. Several times each year, there were occasions for people to come in from the field to spend some time learning or working on some problem at one of these two commissions.

5. Under the Plant Research Commission [a. above], there were 1055 government plant testing stations.

6. The general purpose of the All-Union Academy of Agriculture was:

a. The development and utilization of plant and animal resources throughout the USSR,

b. the solution of current agricultural problems,

c. to collect, pass on, and utilize for teaching and operational purposes in the field, agricultural information from all over the world,

d. to assist and manage the agricultural laboratories and stations throughout the USSR,

e. and specialized (college graduate) training.

An example of the solution of current agricultural problems [b. above] might involve several thousand acres of wheat which were not producing. It would be up to the Academy to find out why, to mediate any differences of conclusion or approach between the local people and itself or other agricultural institutions concerned, and to settle on a course of action.

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7. The Library of the Academy [6 c. above] was so vast and thorough that even if one wanted information on some rare plant, say in Africa, within several weeks there would be made available almost every article which had been written on this plant anywhere in the world. [redacted] library included several million documents [redacted] "volumes" [redacted] the latest works were always readily available to [redacted] an enormous quantity of past and current material from the US.

8. Under the All-Union Academy of Agriculture, there were 11 All-Union Research Institutes:

a. All Union Institute of Plant Agriculture (formerly Institute of Botany) in Leningrad. Nikolai Vavilov was Director of this institute until he was shot in 1939. Andre Constantin Flaksberger was the outstanding scientist, an authority on wheat. Drs (fnu) Pisarev, (fnu) Maltsev, and Nikolai Ivanoff (biochemistry) were also staff members -- as was (fnu) Ehenveld [2 g. above]. This institute had several hundred technical personnel. It had its own experimental stations scattered throughout the USSR; these were shifted after the completion of the project they were assigned to handle in a particular area. The main lines of research of this institute as a whole were: genetics; applied botany; plant selection; and the introduction of new plants. This institute had one of the largest collections of plants in the world, consisting of hundreds of thousands of specimens (10,000 specimens of grain alone). Under the Czar, this institute was the Bureau of Applied Botany under the Department of Agriculture. (fnu) Regal was Director at this time.

b. All-Union Selection and Genetic Institute in Odessa (Director: Trofim Lysenko). This institute was in constant rivalry with the Institute of Plant Agriculture [8 a. above]. Whereas the Institute of Plant Agriculture was the first Soviet agricultural institute to acknowledge the work of the US scientists, Mendel and Morgan, this institute [Selection and Genetic Institute] does not accept these theories, maintaining that genes do not exist. The government of USSR upholds the doctrines of the Selection and Genetic Institute, and therefore the Institute of Plant Agriculture has declined in power and in the quality of its work. However, the Morgan-Mendel genetic theories are still followed under cover within the Institute of Plant Agriculture. Officially therefore, the Selection and Genetics Institute is progressing rapidly, but actually the doctrines of Lysenkoism are holding it back. As Marx, Lenin, and Stalin are the political gods of the USSR, so are Darwin, Timirazef, Michurin, and Lysenko the gods of biology, who are actually bowed and prayed to. However, Lysenko's influence as an individual appears to be declining [redacted] as he is not mentioned as frequently as he was at one time. Although Morgan and Mendel cannot be accepted officially, [redacted]

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[redacted] Soviet scientists have moved ahead and will continue to move ahead by undercover experimentation and acceptance of proven theories. Thus, for example, new types of grain are not developed by the methods of the Lysenko doctrine, but are publicized as being the result of some Lysenko method which in fact they are not. The formal reports of the methods to be used in some research and the schedule to be followed (required of scientists working on special problems) all are written in terms of official doctrine, but in most cases this is only a paper acknowledgement, and the best theories or methods to achieve the purposes at hand are utilized.

c. All-Union Research Institute for the Development of Fertilizer, Ground Cultivation, and Soil Culture (Gedroits), in Moscow. This is a large institute, but not as large as the Institute of Plant Agriculture [8 a. above].

d. All-Union Research Institute for Plant Protection, in Leningrad. This deals with plant sicknesses and diseases.

e. All-Union Research Institute of Agricultural Microbiology, in Leningrad.

f. Research Institute of Soil Mechanics, in Moscow. Examples of the work of this institute: in building the canal between the White and Baltic Seas, the route ran through swamp areas and there was not enough cement to build the canal walls of this material, so Prof (fnu) Lebedev developed a method of superposing alternate layers of mud adobe and peat moss which provided canal walls and a bottom as good

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as cement; or in a coastal area with little precipitation it was found that if the soil was turned, enough moisture was absorbed to provide plant growth without irrigation.

g. All-Union Research Institute of Hydraulic Engineering, Water Conservation, and Irrigation, in Leningrad. Building dams, various hydraulic structures for agriculture, etc.

h. All-Union Research Institute of Agricultural Mechanization and Electrification, in Moscow.

i. All-Union Research Institute of Swamp Reclamation, in Minsk.

j. All-Union Research Institute of Domesticated Animals, in Moscow.

k. All-Union Research Institute of Animal Acclimatization and Hybridization (with its animal preserve in Askaniya-Nova). All types of animals at this preserve: bison, zebra, giraffes, ostriches, etc., and domesticated animals. (The Germans took many animals from this preserve.)

9. Every one of these research institutes [8. above] had their own experimental institute located in various sections of the USSR. One division of the All-Union Academy of Agriculture [3. above] might work through several institutes [8. above]. In general, the institutes as a whole:

- Solved problems of an over-all nature (e.g. floods, droughts, depleted soil).
- introduced new plants in an area.
- determined what agricultural methods were to be used, and
- managed experimental stations.

Their particular activities depended on the nature of the outstanding agricultural problems.

10. Sub-Institutes (or Specialized Institutes) devoted their full efforts to particular problems (e.g. problems of flax). The technical knowledge was provided by the regular institutes [8. above]. There were over 60 of these sub-institutes. [redacted] 25X1 following, all under the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR:

- Research Institute of Grain Management (Southwest USSR), located at Saratov.
- Siberian Research Institute of Grain Agriculture, at Omsk. The Director, about 1944, was (fnu) Tsien, whose specialty was perennial wheat and couch-grass.
- Research Institute of Grain Management for Non-Black Soil Areas, in Moscow.
- All-Union Research Institute of Oil Plants, at Krasnodar (in the Caucasus).
- Azerbaijan Research Institute of Cotton, in Tashkent.
- Research Institute of Cotton in New Areas, at Budenovsk.
- Central Asian Institute of Irrigation, in Tashkent.
- South Caucasus Institute of Water Management, in Tiflis (Tbilisi).
- Research Institute of Newly Discovered Plants, at Moscow.
- Research Institute of Flax, at Torgok (not far from Moscow).
- All-Union Research Institute of Hemp, at Glushov. The last Director of this institute [redacted] (fnu) Grisko-Lydenko.

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1. All-Union Research Institute of Sugar Beets, at Moscow. 25X1A
2. All-Union Research Institute of Moist Sub-Tropical Plants, at Sukhumi.
3. All-Union Research Institute of Tea, at Mahadze-Anasuli [sic].
4. All-Union Research Institute of Dry Sub-Tropical Plants, in Tashkent.
5. All-Union Research Institute of Agro-Forest Melioration, in Moscow.
6. All-Union Research Institute of Animal Feeds, located at the railroad station in Lugovaya (close to Moscow).

11. Under these sub-institutes were 52 experimental district (oblast) stations, 63 plant selective stations, and special regional stations working on a single problem.

12. The following research institutes belonged to the Ministry of United and Autonomous Republics, receiving their funds from the Ministry, but with a technical liaison with the Institute of Plant Cultivation [All-Union Institute of Plant Agriculture]:

- a. Research Institute of Vegetables, in Moscow.
- b. Potato Research Institute, at the railroad station at Malakhova (in the Moscow oblast).
- c. Research Institute of Fruits and Berries (Mishkina), at Mishustin.
- d. North Research Institute of Hydrotechnical Melioration, at Leningrad.
- e. South Research Institute of Hydrotechnical Melioration, at Novochebassk (capital of Kazakh Republic).
- f. Research Institute of Land Surveying, in Moscow.
- g. Institute of Agricultural Economics, in Rostov-Don.
- h. Research Institute of Farm [Agricultural] Animals, at Ufa (in the Ural Mts).
- i. Ukrainian Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, in Kiev.
- j. Ukrainian Research Institute of Agrotechnics, Fertilizer, and Soil Conditioning, in Kiev.
- k. Ukrainian Research Institute of Grain, in Dnepropetrovsk.
- l. Ukrainian Research Institute of Agricultural Mechanization, at Kharkov.
- m. Ukrainian Research Institute of Hydrotechnical Melioration, near Kiev (?).
- n. Ukrainian Research Institute of Forests and Agroforest Melioration, in Kharkov.

13. Examples of other institutes belonging to other ministries: 25X1

- a. Research of Soy Beans and Other New Plants, in Moscow, under the Ministry of Food of the USSR. This may have been eliminated by new [redacted] 25X1
- b. All-Union Research Institute of Elastic and Non-Elastic Rubber, in Moscow, under the Ministry of Heavy Industry of the USSR.
- c. All-Union Research Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, in Moscow, under the Ministry of Light Industry of the USSR.

14. There were numerous seed controlling stations in almost every area of the USSR.

15. The USSR Academy of Sciences also concerns itself with agricultural theories and theories relating importantly to agriculture (e.g. Basic Current Problems of Biophysics, 1945, Academy of Sciences USSR, by P P Lazarev).

16. Most universities had [redacted] agricultural divisions where study and experimental work was conducted. [redacted]

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a. Moscow University.

b. Pushkin University, in Leningrad. This was under the USSR Ministry of Education, but its agricultural division was given its problems by another ministry.

c. Ozovochnomorsky¹³¹⁰⁷ University, in Novoche¹³¹⁰⁷rkassk.

d. Voronishki Institute, in Vorishk¹³¹⁰⁷sk.

17. Under the Commission [redacted] there was the Central Genetic Fruit and Berry Laboratory (Michurin), at Michurinsk. 25X1X

18. In all, prior to World War II, there were more than 500 research and operational agricultural institutions in the USSR.

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